

## Dajani visits Mafraq Governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Monday stressed the importance of citizens' awareness of their duties and responsibilities towards their country and government, saying that they are two main causes for achieving progress and contributing to success. During an open dialogue with citizens, while on a tour of Mafraq Governorate, Mr. Dajani paid tribute to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, saying that it has provided the country with stability and security, which constitute the main pillars of comprehensive development. In answer to questions on the creation of new administrative units, Mr. Dajani said such units will be created in accordance with geographical, demographic and productive givings in order to ensure harmony between services and needs of citizens.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation  
جورдан تايمز نيوزيلاند للطباعة والتوزيع عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

## Soviets deny testing new ICBM

MOSCOW (R) — The Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces, army Gen. Yuri Maksimov, Monday denied U.S. allegations that Moscow had begun testing a new heavy intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Gen. Maksimov told the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that a recent claim by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Perle that a new fifth-generation ICBM was being developed in violation of the SALT-2 treaty was "absolutely groundless." "We are not developing any such heavy missile," Gen. Maksimov said, declaring that Washington had advanced the allegations in a vain attempt to justify its breach of SALT-2 last year.

Volume 12 Number 3373

AMMAN, TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 1987, JUMADI AL AWWAL 13, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

### Senate convenes Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday presided over the Senate's meeting, which will be attended by the Cabinet members. The Senate will refer a number of draft laws to its various committees for debate and approval.

### Explosions hit Beirut government offices

BEIRUT (R) — Bombs exploded in two Lebanese government buildings Monday, injuring one person and causing damage, police said. A package blew up in a central post office in Muslim west Beirut, seriously injuring an official, the police said. Another device exploded in a guardroom of the west Beirut building housing the Information and Tourism Ministries and state-owned Beirut Radio, they added.

### Evren to attend Islamic summit

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren will go to Kuwait on Jan. 25 to take part in the Islamic summit, his office said Monday.

### Murphy goes to Saudi Arabia

LUXOR, Egypt (AP) — Special US. envoy Richard Murphy left Egypt Monday afternoon for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, air controllers said. Mr. Murphy, an assistant secretary of state on a tour to assess prospects for reviving the peace process in the Middle East, had flown earlier Monday from Cairo to this ancient Egyptian capital for a day's sightseeing.

### Gonzalez in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived for a four-day official visit to Egypt and talks expected to cover Europe's role in Middle East peace moves. Mr. Gonzalez, who flew in from Tunis, met Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sodki and attended an official banquet Monday evening. He is also expected to meet President Hosni Mubarak, who visited Spain in 1985, during his stay.

### Jaruzelski arrives in Italy

ROME (R) — Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski, breaking through the wall of isolation that has surrounded his country since the 1981 imposition of martial law, Monday began a three-day official visit to Italy. He launched with President Francesco Cossiga soon after his arrival and later held talks with Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. He will have talks with Pope John Paul Tuesday.

### Fitzwater to succeed Speakes at White House

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Monday veteran government information officer Marlin Fitzwater would replace Larry Speakes as President Reagan's chief spokesman on Feb. 1. Speakes is leaving the administration to work for the Wall Street investment firm Merrill Lynch.

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## Iraq reports fresh air raids on Iranian towns

Kheirallah urges Iranians to surrender

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq reported intensive air raids on five Iranian centres Monday as its troops fought fiercely against an Iranian invasion force which crossed into Iraq on Friday east of the southern port city of Basra.

A military spokesman said the cities and towns of Qom, Esfahan, Borujerd, Arak and Kashan, all in a mountainous region south of Tehran, were attacked.

(Iran said more than 100 civilians were killed and over 400 wounded in Iraqi air raids Monday.)

The casualty figure exceeded that of the Iranian offensive across Shatt Al-Arab waterway last month, which claimed the lives of 90,000 Iranian troops.

"We will never leave," said one.

"We are all armed now to fight the invaders and kick them out..."

A Baghdad military spokesman said Monday that Iraqi warplanes knocked out an Iranian "Hawk" surface-to-air missile base north of the border town of Khorramshahr.

Air attacks were also reported on an Iranian railway station used for military traffic 50 kilometres north of Khorramshahr. The military spokesman said a large number of people were killed.

Other aircraft hit a "naval target" — taken to mean a merchant ship — near the Iranian coast at 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), the spokesman said.

Jets also attacked the west Iranian military camp of Hameed, inflicting heavy losses among Revolutionary Guards, he added.

A Baghdad military spokesman also denied Iranian reports that 29 Iraqi aircraft had been downed in the past four days and said only five had been lost.

LT.-Gen. Abdul Jabar Muhsen, director of the Iraqi army's Political Guidance Bureau, told a news conference in Baghdad that Iraqi forces have "purged" most of the positions the Iranians seized in their Karbala-5 offensive near the southern port of Basra.

He said the Iranians were

(Continued on page 2)

### Prince Hassan hails Iraqi army

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received a telephone call from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who briefed him on the situation at the battle front. Prince Hassan hailed the Iraqi army and people, who are standing firmly in the face of the aggression against the whole Arab Nation, saying that they are defending the Arab dignity and safeguarding Arab rights. Prince Hassan expressed Jordan's pride in and appreciation to the heroic battles Iraqi army is fighting under the leadership of President Hussein.

## 5 killed in new Israeli raid on Maghdousheh

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian and Shi'ite Muslim positions in South Lebanon on Monday, killing at least five guerrillas and wounding 14 in Israel's third attack this year.

Six jets carried out seven bombing, rocketing and strafing sorties as of 1:40 p.m. (1140 GMT) against commando positions around the towering hilltop statue of the Virgin Maryin the Christian town of Maghdousheh, police reported.

The raid targeted positions manned by commandos of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's mainline Fatah group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the pro-Libyan Palestine Popular Struggle Front, they said.

Adjacent positions manned by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, were also targeted in the raid on Maghdousheh, five kilometres south east of Sidon, police said.

They said Israeli pilots released hot air balloons that deflected Soviet-made SA-7 Strela surface-to-air missiles fired from Palestinian positions in Sidon's refugee camps of Ain Al Hilweh.

The explosion occurred a few kilometres from where an Israeli soldier with U.N. peacekeeping troops was killed on Saturday.

## Syria to attend Islamic summit

ABU DHABI (R) — Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam was quoted Monday as saying Syria would attend the Islamic summit due to begin in Kuwait on Jan. 26 and opposed by its ally Iran.

But Mr. Khaddam told the semi-official United Arab Emirates daily Al Ittihad during a stopover in Sharjah on his way to China that Syria would not put pressure on Iran to take part in the meeting.

Iran has urged the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to switch the summit from Kuwait because of the Gulf emirate's support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

"Iran is an independent and sovereign state which takes appropriate decisions," Mr. Khaddam said.

He did not specify whether President Hafez Al Assad would lead Syria's delegation to the conference.

He said Syria would focus at the summit on "Zionist aggression supported by American imperialism, given that the Zionist presence in Palestine is the greatest danger threatening the Arabs and Muslims."

Mr. Khaddam arrived in Peking Monday, the first top Syrian official to visit China since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1956, the New China News Agency reported.

Mr. Khaddam is scheduled to hold talks with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang Tuesday.

Mr. Khaddam on Sunday discussed with Pakistani leaders the forthcoming Islamic summit and the Afghanistan conflict, Pakistan news agency (APP) said.

Mr. Khaddam, stopping in Islamabad on the way to China, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and was invited to pay a longer visit to Pakistan in the future.

APP said they had a comprehensive exchange of views and discussed the Jan. 26-29 Islamic summit, due to be held in Kuwait despite Iranian protests that it would be used for anti-Iranian Gulf war propaganda.

The two men also discussed prospects for a political settlement of the eight-year-old conflict in Afghanistan.

## Iranian gunboats attack tanker in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — An Iranian gunboat fired two artillery rounds at a Liberian-registered tanker as it cruised toward the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf waters carrying Kuwaiti fuel oil to Iran. Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported Monday.

The Atlantic Dignity, loaded with 80,000 tonnes of fuel oil, was attacked some 16 kilometres from the strategic water channel, through which pass oil tankers carrying Gulf oil to the West and the Far East, said the executives who refused to be identified.

The United States, Britain and France maintain naval task forces in the Gulf. All three nations have vowed to protect the Strait of Hormuz and keep it open to navigation.

The vessel was intercepted by the Iranians and shadowed for about five hours before a gunboat fired two artillery rounds into it, hitting the tanker just above the waterline, they said.

The executives said signals from the ship indicated a fire was started aboard, but that the Atlantic Dignity sailed on through the channel. They said it had cleared the waterway by daybreak. No casualties were reported.

They gave the location of the tanker at the time of the attack as 26.30 degrees latitude east and 56.21 degrees north longitude.

The Atlantic Dignity is owned by the Hong Kong-based Island Navigation Company.

It was the 4th tanker to be attacked by Iran in eight days. Two of the previous targets also were carrying Kuwaiti oil and one, the Norwegian Berge Saga, was carrying petroleum cargo from the United Arab Emirates.

Since September, Iran has been selecting vessels flying the Kuwaiti flag or carrying Kuwaiti oil for attacks in the so-called tanker war.

The Iranians have selected yet another tanker with a Kuwaiti oil shipment in what appears to be a bid to clamp a siege on Kuwaiti oil exports," said one Kuwait-based maritime shipping agent.

Kuwait is the Gulf Arab country closest to warring Iraq and Iran.

Iranian leaders have accused Kuwait of bias toward Iraq in the 6-year-old Gulf war.

Tehran has stepped up attacks on Kuwaiti vessels after it rejected the convening of an Islamic summit conference scheduled for Jan. 26 in Kuwait, saying the venue was "not safe."

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are the key bankrollers of Iraq. The two countries are said to have given Iraq \$35 billion in aid since the war broke out in September 1980.

Princess Haseeb was sworn in as Regent during King Hussein's absence, in the presence of the Cabinet members.

Also leaving on Monday was a

## King, Queen arrive in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived Monday for three days of talks with President Francois Mitterrand and French government officials focusing on prospects for progress in the Middle East peace process.

The King was expected to seek

France's support for persuading the United States and Israel of the need to call an international conference on the Middle East.

Those countries say they favour direct talks between Israel and its opponents instead of a multilateral conference.

Before leaving France, the King is to go Wednesday to Toulouse for a visit to the National Space Study Centre and the installations of Aerospatiale and Airbus Industrie.

Upon their departure from Amman Their Majesties were seen off at the airport by Prince Mohammad, His Majesty's personal representative, His Royal Highness Princess Taghreed, His Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, members of the Royal Family, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayez.

Also bidding farewell were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Cabinet members, senior military and civil officials, the French Charge d'Affaires in Amman, and Italian Ambassador to Jordan.

Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent during King Hussein's absence, in the presence of the Cabinet members.

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(Continued on page 5)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad at Amman Airport prior to Their Majesties' departure to France Monday (Petra Photo)

## Bomb thrown at Israeli soldiers' quarters in Hebron

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A petrol bomb was thrown at Israeli soldiers' quarters in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, but caused no damage or injuries, police said.

In a separate development an Israeli man was slightly wounded in his head Sunday when Palestinian youngsters threw stones at Israeli-owned cars in the West Bank town of Nablus, Israel Radio reported.

It said the man was treated at a local military clinic after two Israeli-owned cars were hit by stones thrown by Palestinians.

The radio did not give any further details and declined to name the wounded man.

According to an army report, 80 Israeli-owned cars were damaged in December 1986, by stones thrown by Palestinians in the West Bank, which Israel occupied during the 1967 Middle East war.

Meanwhile the military court in Nablus sentenced a Birzeit University lecturer, Salih Abdul Jawad, to 39 days in prison, a six months suspended sentence and 2,500 shekels (\$1,670) penalty, Israel Radio reported.

The radio reported that Prof. Abdul Jawad would not serve any time in jail since he already spent 39 days under arrest.

## French outpost comes under attack in Chad

NDJAMENA, Chad (AP) — An apparently small number of Libyan troops made a hit-and-run attack on the town of Kalait, south of the red line at the 16th parallel that divides Chad into government-held and Libyan-occupied halves, an informed source said Monday.

There were no further details about the action Sunday night at Kalait, said the source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry confirmed there had been "two 15-minute harassments" of French and Chadian units at Kalait Sunday night.

It said there were no casualties among the few dozen French troops there helping with Chadians with logistics. It gave no information about possible Chadian casualties.

The Libyans have been stung by a series of setbacks in the north. Former northern rebels, who rallied to Mr. Habre's government and were later joined by government troops, have been holding off a month-old Libyan effort to take control of the northwestern Tibesti Mountain region.

The main supply route from Libya to garrisons further south, including Libya's major base at the oasis of Faya Largeau, passes through the Tibesti Mountains. Without control, the Libyans must resupply by air.

On Jan. 2, Mr. Habre's forces routed the Libyan garrison at Fada, north of the red line, claiming to have killed 784 Libyans and captured 81, with large amounts of equipment including tanks and planes destroyed or captured.

# U.S. provided wrong data to Iraq, Iran, paper says

**NEW YORK** (Agencies) — U.S. intelligence agencies deliberately provided Iran and Iraq with inaccurate data in recent years in an effort to keep either side from getting ahead in the six-year-old Gulf war, the New York Times said Monday.

In what it described as a "disinformation campaign," the newspaper quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying the agencies distorted data provided to both countries in order to further Reagan administration goals in the region.

It said examples of the inaccurate information included:

— Giving Iran exaggerated assessments of a Soviet troop buildup on its border making the threat seem greater than it was.

— Providing Iraq with information gleaned from satellite photographs that had been altered to make it misleading or incomplete.

The article quoted State Department officials as acknowledging that simultaneously selling weapons to Iran and providing it with unreliable intelligence information seemed contradictory.

When asked how all the pieces of this U.S. policy fit together, one former State Department official was quoted as saying: "You had to have been there."

The policy in these secret dealings reflected the thinking of such senior officials as CIA Director William Casey and former National Security Advisor John Poindexter and were carried out without consulting the Pentagon or the State Department, the paper quoted a White House aide as saying.

In a memo that became public last year, Adm. Poindexter was shown to favour of planting false information in the press in a

The Washington Post said congressional investigators had evidence that millions of dollars were missing from the U.S. and Israeli arms sales to Iran.

And the Los Angeles Times quoted a draft report by the Senate intelligence panel as saying Israel had sent Soviet-made weapons to the contras, but when such shipments did not cause the release of all the American hostages in Lebanon.

In its investigation of the arms sales, the Senate Intelligence Committee found that Mr. Reagan kept the programme going despite misgivings by senior advisers and the intelligence committee, said Republcan Senator William Cohen.

The investigation is looking into the most serious crisis ever faced by Mr. Reagan — the sale of arms to Nicaragua and the diversion of millions of dollars in from the sale to Nicaraguan contras.

Sen. Cohen said that in pursuing his Iran policy, Mr. Reagan "eliminated the Congress, and the secretary of state and others ... from the process and placed it in the hands of a few White House operatives."

"He cannot now, in my judgment, escape responsibility for the actions of those individuals," said Sen. Cohen, who termed them "amateurs."

Sen. Cohen praised Mr. Reagan for trying to win the release of Americans held by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon and to find a diplomatic opening to Iran. But he criticised the president for not following "sound and reasoned" advice.

"He, in fact, took foreign policy underground" against the objections of Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and other top aides, Sen. Cohen said.

Meanwhile, a steady stream of press reports which further questioned the propriety of the Iranian arms sales and the handling of the money used to pay for them emerged as President Reagan spent the weekend in the White House recovering from prostate surgery.

The affair so far has resulted in the resignation of White House National Security Advisor John Poindexter and the firing of a key aide, Lt. Col. Oliver North.

On Saturday, the New York Times reported Col. North had coordinated armaments to the contras through Portugal.

The shipments through Portugal threw doubt on White House denials that it had defied a congressional ban on aid for the contras.

The United States must approve such sales because the planes include U.S. components, Haaretz quoted unidentified military sources as saying payment for the Israeli instructors may come from the Honduran government or from "American sources or intelligence groups."

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Shimoni Peres said Israel would have to wait patiently until its name was cleared of any wrongdoing in the Iran arms affair.

"We must deal with these matters patiently," said Peres in remarks aired Monday on Israel Radio. "When the whole picture emerges, I'm convinced the basic picture (of Israel's role) won't change," he said.

Peres, who was prime minister at the time the arms sales began in August 1985, reiterated his position that Israel only responded to a U.S. request for help in establishing ties with Iran.

He was reacting to a White House-issued document claiming Zeev Schiff urged Israeli leaders to speak out clearly on the affair in the light of Adm. Poindexter's memo.

contras, the New York Times said.

In Washington a member of the Senate intelligence panel said Mr. Reagan, relying on advice from "amateurs," kept the Iranian arms initiative alive even when such shipments did not cause the release of all the American hostages in Lebanon.

Having undertaken "the most difficult trip of my life ... at great personal and professional risk to myself," Cardinal O'Connor said, "I must confess deep, deep disappointment to be told, in effect, that a censure has been issued by the leaders of so many groups."

"My trip could produce a good deal of fruit," he said, an apparent reference to Middle East peace and Vatican-Israeli relations. "That fruit could be destroyed by the kind of statement the papers are reporting."

"I have never been so pilloried," O'Connor said.

On Saturday, the day O'Connor returned from his nine-day trip, 53 major Jewish organisations released a 350-word statement in which they expressed little direct criticism of O'Connor but said they were "disquieted and distressed" by some things the prelate reportedly said on his trip.

They cited only one example: O'Connor's speculation, upon emerging from the holocaust museum, that the systematic execution of European Jews "may be an enormous gift that Judaism has given the world."

While conceding that the cardinal "clearly was profoundly moved by his visit" to the museum, the groups termed his comment "disturbing and painful." Cardinal O'Connor said the comment stemmed from his belief in the redemptive power of suffering and was meant as a "tremendous compliment to the Jewish people."

The cardinal stressed Sunday that he had not read the group's statement — he was not sent a copy, he complained — but was responding to newspaper reports.

Morris Abram, head of the conference of presidents of major-American Jewish organisations, said Sunday that the Jewish-leaders meant to "set the record straight," not fault Cardinal O'Connor. "Only time will tell if the trip has been a plus," he said.

"There was no censure intended and none executed," he said.

Meanwhile, an Arab-American spokesman praised Cardinal O'Connor's trip and said the criticism by American Jews hurts the cause of Middle East peace.

O'Connor is a man of peace and humanity who wanted to soothe various feelings of people who have been hurt," Dr. Mohammad Mehdi, secretary general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, said Sunday.

"Jewish groups are so 100 per cent in their thinking, so black and white, that they're denying (O'Connor) the opportunity to be a middle ground," he said.

The network said that two months later, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane told Secretary of State George Shultz that someone — the name again was blacked out — had contributed \$31 million to the contras political group, the United Nicaraguan Opposition.

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Meanwhile, an Arab-American spokesman praised Cardinal O'Connor's trip and said the criticism by American Jews hurts the cause of Middle East peace.

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# Home news

## Jordanian cement hits Egyptian market

By Saad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — The first shipment of Jordanian cement has arrived in Egypt via the Red Sea port of Suez and marketing of the product is now underway.

According to Mr. Kamal Wajih, who is directing the transportation of Jordanian cement to Egypt, a freighter carrying 25,000 tonnes of Jordanian bulk cement docked in Suez last December and the marketing process in Egypt commenced on Sunday.

Mr. Wajih, whose company won a tender for trucking and shipping one million tonnes of bulk cement from the former South Cement Company (SCC) under a cost and freight agreement, said that the terms of the tender provided for freighting 1,700 tonnes of bulk cement per day or 60,000 tonnes per month.

On the terms and means of transport between pick up at the cement factory and delivery to Aqaba port, Mr. Wajih said his company has chartered a Yugoslav fleet of trucks which are specially constructed to carry bulk cement.

The lorries unload their shipments of bulk cement on a floating silo at Aqaba and from there cargo vessels carry set consignments to a packing factory in Suez where bulk cement is filled into sacks for the Egyptian markets, Mr. Wajih told the Jordan Times on Monday.

Egyptian trucks take over the task in Suez and transport the sacked Jordanian cement to the distribution terminals inside Egypt, Mr. Wajih added.

When signing the package deal in May of last year, Egypt and Jordan deemed it more feasible that bulk cement be sacked and prepared in Suez where both countries installed special sacking facilities at port silos.

## Joint archaeology team to start new dig at Tal Deir Alla

**AMMAN** (Petra) — A joint archaeological team from the University of Leiden in Holland and the Department of Antiquities in Jordan will shortly embark on an excavation season at Tal Deir Alla, in the Jordan Valley region, to complete the unearthing of an Ammonite city dating back to 1200 B.C., according to an announcement issued by the Department of Antiquities.

The announcement said that the dig, which will continue until the end of March, will centre on the ninth zone of the ancient city which was believed to have been



**AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS:** Pakistan's ambassador designate to Jordan Jaffer Hassan Sayyed (left) on Monday presents Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri with a copy of his credentials. Mr. Sayyed succeeds



Mr. Ehsan Rashid who served in the post since 1982. Mr. Masri also received Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim (right) who handed him a copy of his credentials as ambassador of Bahrain to Jordan (Petra photo).

## Ministry, RSS to cooperate in energy conservation designs

**AMMAN** (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Monday signed a contract on bilateral cooperation in energy conservation measures. Under the agreement, both sides will carry out a project with technical help from the Italian government and a specialised Italian firm to produce building designs suitable for Jordan's climate. The project also involved finding ways to save energy that is being used in heating and airconditioning and means of benefitting from solar power and renewable forms of energy.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and RSS President Jawad Al Anani.

## Delegation to review tourism marketing strategy with Egypt

**AMMAN** (Petra) — A tourist delegation, led by Mr. Nasri Atallah, the director general of the Tourism Authority, left for Cairo on Monday for a five-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Mr. Atallah will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Tourism on the joint marketing of Jordanian and Egyptian tourist attractions and organising tourist exhibition in world capitals to attract tourists. Also to be discussed by the two sides is the question of organising visits to Egypt and Jordan by tourist groups from different countries, and bilateral exchanges of expertise and information about tourism, in implementation of an agreement signed by the two countries in Amman last November.

The two sides will also discuss the setting up of joint wings and exhibitions to highlight touristic and archaeological sites in Egypt and Jordan.

According to Mr. Ghaleb Abu Arabi, director of the Range and Afforestation Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, most trees to be planted this year will be fruit trees, but certain areas will be planted with forest trees during the current session.

He said that the ministry's various nurseries this year produced nine million saplings, half of which will be planted during the Jan. 15 Arbor Day celebrations to be held in different governorates of the Kingdom.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Committee discusses budget supplements

**AMMAN** (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee on Monday discussed the general budget supplements for the years 1984 and 1985 and the laws of the Amman Financial Market. The meeting was attended by Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayed, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh and Finance Minister Hanna Odeh.

### Hamdan establishes 6 new municipalities

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Al Hamdan on Monday decided to establish six new municipalities in Amman, Irbid, and Mafrag governorates and Madaba district. The newly established municipalities are in Hisban and Rawda in Amman Governorate, Kuf Rakeb in Irbid Governorate, Rawdat Basma and Hayyan Al Ruweibed in Mafrag Governorate and Mlehi in Madaba district.

### Mu'ta fixes JD 9.5m budget for 1987

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Mu'ta University's budget for the year 1987 totals JD 9,500,000, according to university sources. The sources added that JD 3,057,000 has been allocated for construction work and JD 1,976,000 for providing laboratory equipment, engineering workshops and furnishing offices and lecture halls in addition to purchasing cars. The university has also allocated JD 1 million for scholarships, the sources added.

### Man stabs brother to death

**AMMAN** (J.T.) — A 27-year-old man, Nidal Hadidi, was murdered on Sunday evening by his 21-year-old brother at their home in Jabal Luweibdeh, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. The report said that the victim was stabbed with a switchblade in several parts of his body, causing his immediate death. The younger brother immediately turned himself to the police after the knifing. The victim was buried in his hometown of Salt on Monday and police were continuing the investigation, according to the report.

### Fund extends 404 loans to craftsmen

**AMMAN** (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) fund for craftsmen granted 404 loans amounting to JD 1,239,300 in 1986, IDB sources said on Monday. When granting the loans, the fund took into consideration geographical distribution of the craftsmen.

### Women's training receives a boost

**AMMAN** (Petra) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will carry out several training programmes for women in cooperation with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) and the women's department at the Ministry of Social Development. The programme includes training in community development and management. Taking part in the programme will be 20 women from the GFJW, 750 housewives and 50 community workers.

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## ATF symposium on debt concludes

*Delegates urge Arab countries to coordinate financial policies to offset deficits and exert pressure on major lenders*

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — A specialised symposium ended its deliberations here on Monday urging all Arab countries to exert their leverage on the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to obtain better terms for Arab borrowers and debtor states.

The staunch call for better conditions on loans secured by Arab states from these two Washington-based lending giants was one of many recommendations issued at the end of a two-day seminar on alternative policies for dealing with the Arab countries' foreign debts. According to official figures, the total amount of Arab indebtedness is estimated at \$134.5 billion, a sum which forms 15 per cent of the overall foreign debts of developing countries.

The event, which opened here with a keynote speech by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, discussed issues related to the flight of Arab capital, protecting Arab investments, and devising tools and mechanism to reduce the foreign liabilities which have reached an embarrassing stage is some of the regions' currency.

Official figures put Egypt top of debtor Arab countries with current debts of \$42.5 billion, followed by Algeria with \$16.3 billion and Morocco with \$16.980 billion.

Participants in the seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), suggested the establishment of an Arab fund for confronting foreign debts and said that such a body should be ready to support any Arab state whose foreign payments were causing a financial crisis.

The fund's basic role, they said, should be to offer immediate help in the form of "emergency loans" to any country which is in the process of rescheduling its foreign debts.

Finances for the fund, they suggested, should be gathered by allocating part of Arab financial reserves from states with surplus in revenues as well as the participation of Arab socio-economic and development funds.

Furthermore, they called for issuing special laws to control foreign borrowings made on behalf of Arab public institutions. These laws, they said, should outline the rules and terms and ceilings for foreign borrowings.

They stressed that such laws should stipulate that public borrowings cannot be made unless the Arab states' respective parliaments and legislative bodies issue special laws legalising the process.

They further suggested that foreign borrowing should not be on commercial bases, and added that encouragement should be made to allow for Arab-Arab borrowing.

Academics returning Egypt to the Arab fold and all joint Arab organisations was another recommendation made by the conferees who cited Cairo's role as "major" in helping the Arab states face their problems.

In his opening speech on Sunday, Crown Prince Hassan warned the region against what he termed as a "potential global trade war," and said that means of finding solutions to help the Arab countries sidestep the shadow of Arab indebtedness have to be created through an "Arab-Arab formula."

The final recommendations of the meeting were based on the deliberations which followed four working papers presented to the seminar on "means of protecting Arab investments," "the flight of Arab capital," "ways to overcome the indebtedness crisis" and the international attitude vis-a-vis the issue.

Discussing the threats on Arab capital invested in foreign countries, which the participants were unable to evaluate, the participants called for directing the surplus in Arab budgets and revenues towards procurement in Arab nations, provided suitable investment opportunities are created.

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# Jordan Times

Middle East coverage  
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Editorial and advertising offices  
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University House, P.O. Box 7777, Amman, Jordan  
Telephone: 06-531111  
Telex: 2000 JORDAN  
Fax: 06-531111  
The Jordan Times is published daily except Saturday  
Subscription and advertising rates available from  
Jordan Times advertising department

## One-time exception?

IS the U.S. arms sale to Iran truly a "one-time exception" as U.S. envoy to the Middle East Richard Murphy asserted on his visit to Egypt over the weekend, or rather a reflection of a well studied and calculated policy towards Iran and our region in general? With the continuing disclosures that President Ronald Reagan had authorised the sale of arms to Iran and that Israel had played a pivotal role in the whole affair, one should look beyond the declared explanations of the Washington-Tel Aviv-Tehran deal.

The starting point for any insightful analysis of the Iran-Iraq scandal should be an examination of how Washington sees our region as a whole. Washington certainly sees Iran as a de facto ally vis-a-vis the situation in Afghanistan, where Soviet troops are battling with an indigenous resistance supported equally by Washington and Tehran. The strategic value of Afghanistan for both Washington and Moscow is too clear to require any amplification. If Afghanistan is of strategic importance to both superpowers, it follows that Iran is even a bigger prize for Washington. With Afghanistan firmly under the control of the Soviet Union, however, it stands to reason that Washington calculates that Iran should be under the control of the U.S., either directly or by proxy, in order to neutralise the Soviet presence and assure its containment in Afghanistan. Iran has amply demonstrated the direction of its political ideology by suppressing all leftist forces in the country and executing the Communists. All in all, then, the credentials of Iran in the context of the ideological struggle between the two giants has been sealed in favour of Washington.

With this in mind, one wonders about the position of Iraq and the Arab World in the grand strategy that Washington has mapped out for the Middle East. One can deduce from this that, for the West, the Arab World can be taken for granted, just like it has been in the past. Even when Western support was allowed to filter for Iraq, the intent behind it seems to have been to force Iran further and closer to the side of the West. And, if this is true, then Mr. Murphy cannot be right when he said that the arms sale to Iran was a one-time exception. Besides, if most of the upper echelons of government did not know about the arms deal to Iran, maybe Mr. Murphy also is not privy to the thoughts of the inner circle in the U.S. government.

With the gap that exists today between the White House and the State Department, it is difficult to know just exactly what foreign policy — if any — the U.S. might have at the present. And until the picture becomes clearer, Mr. Murphy's words can only be taken to represent more his own and Secretary Shultz's thinking than the whole administration's.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: King pursues peace

KING Hussein and Queen Noor Monday start an official visit to France to be followed by another one to Italy. Both visits come at a time when efforts are intensifying for solving the Middle East question and restoring the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The visits to France and Italy, both prominent members of the European Community, come in the wake of a fresh tour by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy to the region and Moscow's new declaration on the Middle East situation and the Belgian foreign minister's announcement that the question will be on the European Community's agenda. Though Europe has not yet revealed any plans for reviving efforts to resolve the problem, its leaders have lately been expressing concern over the situation in the region which has been aggravated in view of Israel's continued acts of aggression, and its refusal of all peace bids. In the light of this situation, we can say that the King's visits are of tremendous significance specially as Jordan has never given up the hope about Europe's role in the peace-making process. Jordan believes that without the European Community and the Soviet Union there can be no real solution based on justice. Jordan also believes that the United States should not be allowed to handle the Middle East issue single handed or impose any terms for a solution which favour Israel solely and ignore the rights of the Palestinian people. The King is in Europe again affirming Arab rights and calling for a just peace.

### Al Dustour: Israeli-U.S. collusion

AS the Iranians escalate their aggression on Iraq, we hear reports about fresh documents that reveal Washington's detailed role in collusion with Israel for supplying Tehran with weapons to launch aggression. Needless to say that the conflict in the Gulf serves Israel's purpose and offers Tel Aviv a golden opportunity for consolidating its hold on occupied Arab territory. Israel serves as an agent for the United States in selling arms to Iran, but it stands as the prime beneficiary of the current war. However, the Iranian rulers have been trying to ignore this fact and even deny any deals with the Israelis or the Americans, as they claim their total hostility to both Israel and the United States. But the fresh documents reveal clearly the collusion of Israel and the United States with the Tehran regime at a time when Iran is launching a fresh offensive against Iraq employing American made weapons delivered to Tehran by the Israelis. Both the United States and Israel want this war to continue and to intensify because it is bound to maintain the bleeding of the Arab and Islamic nations and the draining of their resources. For this reason, we can say that the developments in the Gulf war are closely connected with the continuous stream of American weapons to Iran and the desire for prolonging the conflagration as long as possible. We strongly condemn Iran's new aggression on Iraq and we are quite confident that the Iraqi armed forces will inflict another defeat on the invading forces regardless of the American-made weapons at their disposal.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Another bloody offensive

DESPITE the huge forces Iran has massed for the current battle in the southern front, and regardless of the advanced weapons they brought to the battlefield, the Tehran regime cannot and will not achieve any success in its bid to occupy Arab land. The Tehran rulers who are obsessed with the lust of power and domination of Arab territory have planned to achieve successes in the war to make up for the series of defeats they suffered at the hands of the Iraqi armed forces so far. But, in so doing these rulers are sacrificing tens of thousands of innocent people and inflicting so much damage and material loss on the Iranian people themselves. The new battle is being waged by Iran not only to make up for their humiliating defeat two weeks ago, but in order to create an impression with the coming Islamic summit in Kuwait. The Iranians hope that with their aggression they would obstruct the coming meeting and prevent Islamic leaders from finding a proper measure to end the bloody conflict. The Tehran regime has opted for aggression after finding itself totally isolated from the rest of the Islamic world, and is now trying to commit suicide through new adventures across the border and into Iraq.

# Britons see prospect of first coalition since World War II

By Colin McIntyre  
*Reuter*

LONDON — Despite opposition from Britain's two major political parties, prospects are growing that this country may soon have its first coalition government since World War II.

In the mind of the average Briton coalitions are essentially foreign, the result of too many political parties leading inevitably to short-lived and chaotic governments. The experience of Italy usually comes to mind.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher echoed a widely-held view when she commented on a recent radio phone-in programme: "Coalitions break up pretty quickly, because they frequently tend to duck the difficult questions."

The two-party system that has dominated British politics for most of this century, with Conservatives and Labour alternating between government and opposition, guarantees solid

majorities and decisive and orderly rule, traditionalists argue. However, a growing body of opinion believes the system is breaking down in a changing Britain, and sees the likelihood of coalition government growing. Far from shrinking at the prospect, they welcome it.

Supporters of coalition point out that an example for Britain should be West Germany, rather than Italy. The Germans have run themselves by coalitions since the Federal Republic came into being in 1949, with impressive results.

Latest opinion polls here have the two major parties almost neck-and-neck with little prospect of gaining an overall majority in elections, which must be held by 1988 but are widely expected to come this year.

A Mori poll this month gave the ruling Conservatives 39 per cent, with Labour 38 per cent, and the centrist alliance, which groups the Liberals and Social Democrats (SDP), on 21 per cent.

Translated into votes in a general election, the figures would produce a hung parliament, with the Conservatives taking 309 seats, 17 short of an overall majority, and Labour getting 301.

While both parties have already ruled out any coalition with the alliance, which has pledged to break the traditional two-party mould of British politics, SDP leader David Owen has predicted they will be forced to eat their words.

"The electorate in their wisdom will, I predict, not give outright victory to any of us," he said in a new year message. "We will be forced to negotiate together. We will see once again coalition government in this country."

While many commentators welcome the prospect of a coalition involving the alliance, with its middle-of-the-road pragmatism, they shudder at the possibility of another scenario in which the balance of power could be held by the Northern Ireland

Unionists, who currently hold 15 seats.

Few politicians would relish the thought of Ireland's turbulent politics, dominated by the age-old battle between Protestants and Catholics, once again casting their shadow over parliament as they did at the turn of the century.

The minimum price for Unionist support would inevitably be the scrapping of the controversial Anglo-Irish agreement giving Dublin a say in running the province, aimed at ending the 18-year sectarian and political strife that has racked the north. What else the Unionists might demand is unclear.

The Unionists, who represent the Protestant majority in the province loyal to Britain, fear the agreement will lead eventually to a united Ireland ruled by the predominantly Catholic south.

The agreement, passed by the largest majority in parliament's history in 1985, is supported by all the main parties.

The last coalition in Britain was a wartime government of national unity formed by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1940, which survived without any major challenge for five years. The only genuine coalition this century, in which parties were forced to cooperate by domestic rather than external factors, was in 1931.

From 1950 to 1970 the country settled into a firm two-party pattern. In elections during this period an average 98 per cent of members of parliament came from the big two parties.

Things began to change in the 1970s, when this proportion dropped to 94 per cent with the growth in the Liberal vote, the upsurge of nationalist parties in Scotland and Wales, and the move of Northern Ireland's politics outside the mainland system.

There was nearly a coalition in 1977. Labour leader James Callaghan, faced with a vote of censure on his economic policies,

forged a pact under which the Liberals agreed to support him on key issues in return for consultation on major decisions.

Advocates of coalition argue that the so-called "Lib-Lab pact" worked quite well during its 18-month existence. Some Labour back-benchers complained that the Liberals were more involved in government than they were.

Another development has been the increasing polarisation of Britain into the relatively impoverished north, now overwhelmingly Labour, and the affluent south, solidly Tory. This has led to an increase in "safe" seats and a decline in "marginals" which in the past tended to change hands when there was only a small swing in support from one party to the other in elections.

The net result of all these developments is that the two main parties now need a lead of at least five percent over the other to gain a majority.

## NATO takes rocky road to joint arms production

By Robert J. Wieland  
*The Associated Press*

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO is struggling once again to eliminate a perpetual military problem: Duplication and incompatibility of weapons among its member armies.

Next month, the alliance will launch joint, multinational projects on seven major arms systems.

But squabbles over national sovereignty and protectionism continue to blunt the allies' zeal for more such projects.

David Adbish, a former U.S. envoy to NATO, says 11 firms in

seven NATO nations make anti-tank weapons; 18 firms in seven countries make ground-to-air weapons; and 16 firms in seven nations make air-to-ground arms. There also are seven nations making six tactical communications systems that are unable to "speak" with each other. And none is compatible with NATO's integrated communications system.

The duplication is seen as weakening the alliance because the Soviets have a numerical superiority in conventional weapons and have narrowed or wiped out NATO's lead in nuclear arms.

If East-West war breaks out tomorrow, General Bernard W. Rogers, NATO's top European commander, has said he will have to use nuclear arms in a matter of days, rather than weeks.

However, NATO officials say a major step to help remedy the situation is near. In February, 13 NATO allies expect to sign an accord to share in the research and development of seven major systems for their armed forces.

These include airborne radar, a common 155mm, heat-seeking battlefield shell, a NATO-wide "friend-or-foe" identification system for aircraft, and "smart" bombs and missiles that home in on targets.

The main difficulty ... continues to be, the general reluctance of nations to relinquish a small amount of national sovereignty," Spain's deputy defence minister Eduardo Serra Rexach wrote in a recent NATO Review, an alliance periodical.

The alliance, for example, has four main battle tanks that use different ammunition — the Leopard from West Germany, the M-1 Abrams from the United States, the Challenger from Britain and the AMX-40 from France.

"We cannot afford ... a system which has resulted in four main battle tanks being lined up to fight the same battle in the same place on the same day and not even being able to use the same ammunition," NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington said last October.

In some areas standardisation has prevailed. An example came in mid-December when Britain decided to buy U.S. AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) planes, thus remaining in step with NATO, which has 18 of the U.S.-made airborne radar

stations.

But the British decision came only after a wrenching debate over the merits of the home-developed Nimrod system, whose backers complained bitterly that by buying AWACS the British government had harmed domestic industry and technological growth.

Politics has also stood in the way. From 1978 through 1982, the decision to deploy nuclear cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe, and the severe political fallout it yielded, dominated allied consultations.

U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn renewed interest in recent years for allied arms cooperation.

In a 1985 amendment he sponsored, the United States put up \$345 million through 1987 for the U.S. share of collaborative arms deals. It also earmarked \$90 million for side-by-side testing of existing U.S. and European weapons.

The United States, Britain and France will join in all seven high-priority projects expected to be announced in February.

Canada and Italy will share in six, Spain, Holland and West Germany in five, Belgium in four, Norway in three, Denmark and Turkey in two, and Greece in one, officials said.

But arms cooperation, both among the Europeans and with the Americans and Canadians, has long been cause for acrimony.

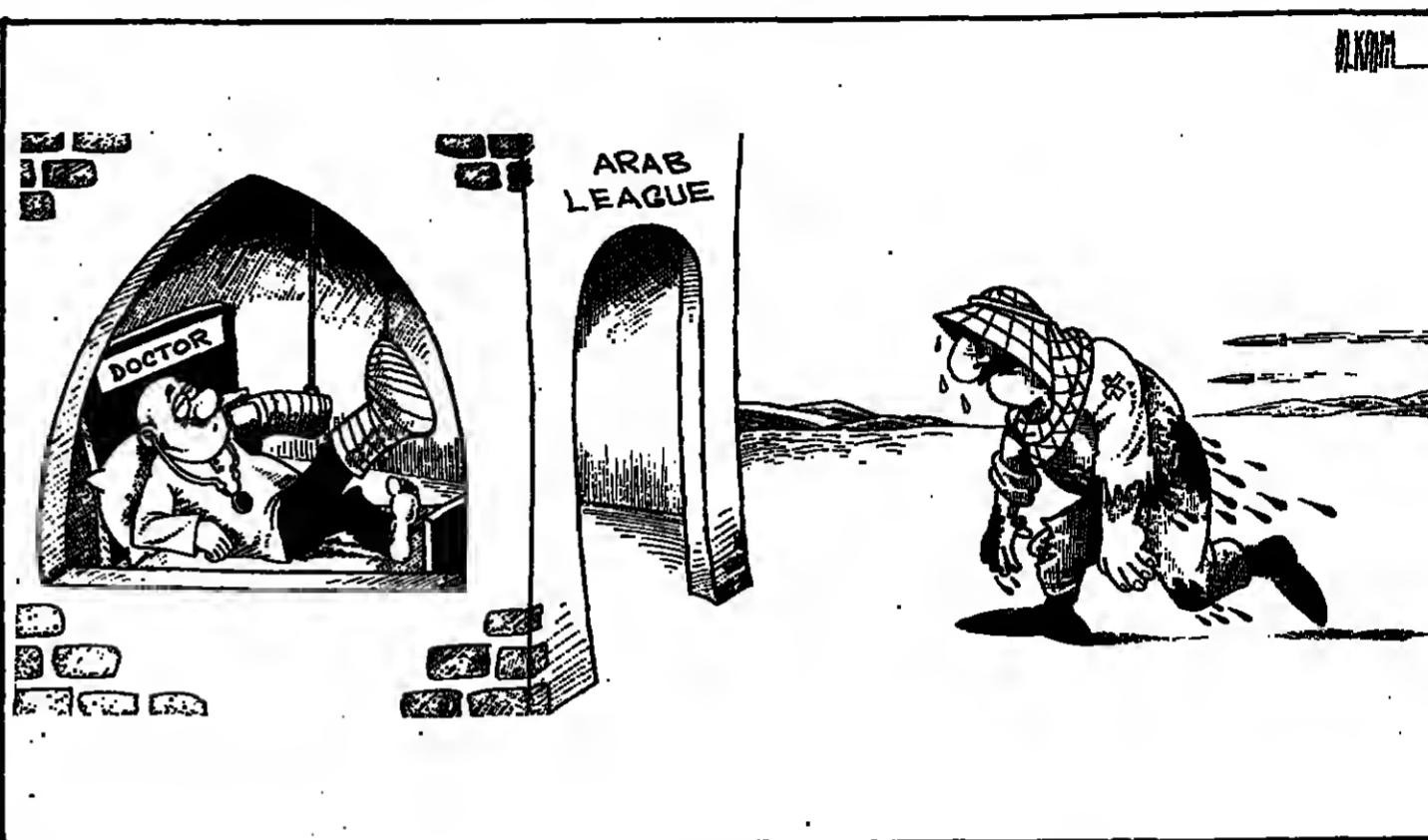
One European project — to start building 1,000 supersonic tactical jet fighters in the mid-1990s at a cost of \$30 billion has bogged down in squabbling over the plane's size and weight since talks began in 1980 between Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain.

They say the deposed leader's year-long campaign to regain control of the impoverished former British colony seemed to have lost momentum, largely because of lack of support from neighbouring North Yemen.

The exiled Nasser Mohammed has been ensconced for months on the North Yemen side of the border and says he has been joined by 30,000 supporters.

He has repeatedly demanded peace talks while also threatening armed intervention to oust the new Aden leadership headed by President Haider Ahabukar Al Attas.

On Jan. 11 he issued a statement from the North Yemen capital renewing overtures: "We will



## S. Yemen appears to have weathered year of uncertainty

By Dina Matar  
*Reuter*

BAHRAYN — A year after factional fighting split South Yemen, the new Marxist leadership appears to be consolidating power despite the presence of ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammed on the border, diplomats in the region say.

They say the deposed leader's year-long campaign to regain control of the impoverished former British colony seemed to have lost momentum, largely because of lack of support from neighbouring North Yemen.

Up to 10,000 people were reportedly killed and damage ran to more than \$200 million, crippling the economy.

Diplomatic sources say political uncertainty has now diminished as Aden's new rulers, adopting a more rigid Marxist line, seem to have succeeded in drawing together the YSP.

"The situation in South Yemen has stabilised and differences within the party appear healed," one source said.

The new leadership was sufficiently confident to hold

parliamentary elections last October for the first time since independence in 1967.

Diplomats said North Yemen — which has dabbled in merger talks with South Yemen since 1982 — had shown little enthusiasm for helping Nasser Mohammed regain power. They said the Sanaa government was preoccupied with an economic crisis caused by an acute shortage of foreign currency.

Nasser Mohammed was reportedly have stationed several thousand armed supporters in camps along the border last year. But diplomats said there has been only minor skirmishes.

In December, Aden said it had uncovered a sabotage network in the northern province of Shabwah, about 500 kilometres north of Aden, which it said was linked to Nasser Mohammed.

Diplomats say Attas, a 49-year-old technocrat, has actively sought to gain Arab acceptance with visits to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and Libya.

but an increasing number of girls on campuses are wearing turbans, scarves or the full veil now obligatory in neighbouring Iran.

Hundreds of headscarved girls have been active this week in the main cities gathering support for the protest actions they say will begin if the rule is enforced.

One group of girls went to the headquarters of the left wing opposition Social Democratic Populist Party which has opposed state interference in education. But on this issue, spokesman said the party agreed with President Evren and was opposed to "those who are turning religion into a political tool."

President Evren: defending the principle of secularism

taken over.

Mr. Ozal, who was briefly a member of the now banned ultra-religious National Salvation Party in the 1970s, is said to be unhappy about President Evren's campaign against rising anti-secular activities.

President Evren warned Turkish citizens in his new year speech against rising anti-secular activities. He said the principle of secularism was a foundation stone of the republic as well as of the ideals and reforms of Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. President Evren said Turkey was secular but not atheist. He did not want to interfere in people's private lives, but regulations must be followed in institutions such as universities. These included the type of dress that students wore.

A ban on the wearing of Islamic headscarves technically already exists in regulations drawn up by the higher education authority.

The Iranian affair.

There are other problems, and the 100th Congress would be wise not to ignore them.

Last week, the president sent Congress a \$1-trillion budget. In line with the pattern of past years, both Republicans and Democrats said the president's plan wouldn't pass and set to work setting their own spending priorities.

Members of Congress, as well as private economists, questioned the economic assumptions that helped the administration project a reduction of the deficit to \$108 billion, a figure that would meet the target set by the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

Budget deficits are a touchy political problem, and the Democrats don't want to be in a position in which Reagan could accuse them of raising taxes and spending more money.

Byrd is hinting he might bring the Reagan budget to the Senate floor for a vote that would surely put Republicans as well as Democrats on record against it.

## UNRWA sponsors self-supporting jobs for Palestinian refugees

By Fred Donovan  
Special to the Jordan Times

**WEARING A THOUB**, a traditional embroidered Palestinian dress, Futnah Khalil Subah stands in the entrance of her grocery shop in the Baqa'a camp, one of the six Palestine refugee camps set up in Jordan following the 1967 war. Her small children gather around her, eyeing the stranger who has just arrived.

Mohammad Ali Nawas, the welfare officer for UNRWA's Balqa area, explains to her that the newcomer would like to write an article on her fledgling business, one of a number of such self-supporting projects in Baqa'a camp. UNRWA began this self-supporting programme in 1983; now, 55 such projects are operating in Jordan.

"Would you like some coffee?" Ms. Subah inquires. After coffee is served, she answers some questions about the shop. She explains that the income from the shop is enough to pay her family expenses. When her income is above the minimum for UNRWA welfare hardship assistance, she will be taken off the rations list. Asked if she thinks she can manage, she says with a smile, "Inshallah."

Ms. Subah, a 46-year-old widow with six children, is a beneficiary of the self-supporting programme begun by UNRWA in 1983. For her project, started in April of last year, UNRWA provided JD763 to set up the shop, and JD 163 to renovate the room-turned-shop adjoining her residence. This amount was sufficient but "I would have preferred JD 1,500. Look at all these goods in the shop," she says as she sweeps her arm in a half circle, indicating the shelves that line the walls.

According to Omar Al Marridi, UNRWA's field welfare officer for Jordan, the programme was originally conceived by Mr. Peter Holdaway, the director of relief in Vienna, to employ disabled refugees who had been sent to Syria for technical training. After a trial period, UNRWA decided to restrict the programme only to hardship cases. "We thought that those who were not hardship cases could be supported by their families," states Mr. Marridi.

"If the beneficiaries succeed, they are replaced on the hardship rolls. This makes room for others, especially the disabled," he adds.

### Why Iraq's rivers turned saline?

By Alan George

LONDON, England — The Shatt al Arab in Iraq forms the joint estuary of the great Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Ten years ago, a British firm of consultants recommended that it should be used as the source for a new water supply system for Iraq's second largest city, the Gulf port of Basra.

Since then, as a result of a series of major Iraqi water engineering schemes, the Shatt al Arab has become too saline. Consequently, the supply scheme for Basra, which was recently tendered, will have a different water source over 200 kilometres north of the city.

Perhaps the biggest single cause, albeit indirect, of the rising salinity has been the Samarra Barrage, completed in 1958, on the Tigris north of the capital Baghdad. Its function is to protect Baghdad from flooding in spring, when the river is swollen with snow-melt from the mountains to the north. The barrage diverts water into the Tharthar depression, a natural basin in the desert to the northwest of Baghdad. There, a vast lake has formed, but its waters are highly saline because of rapid evaporation and leaching.

In order to allow Lake Tharthar's water to be used for irrigation, it was resolved to flush it by means of a canal leading south from the lake, to join the Euphrates at Falujah. This canal was completed in 1978 and carries up to 500 cubic metres of water per second. Discharge through the canal is regulated to ensure that sulphate levels in the Euphrates downstream from Falujah do not exceed 400 milligrams a litre. The new canal will clearly have a significant effect on the salinity of the Tigris.

The Euphrates, which has a longer course and serves more irrigation systems, has always been more saline than the Tigris. In the past, this did not create problems in the Shatt al Arab, as the salty discharges from the Euphrates were diluted by the flow from the Tigris. Now, even without the impact that the second canal from Tharthar will have, the Tigris itself has become saline in its lower reaches as a result of a series of new demands on its flow.

The Samarra Barrage diverts large volumes of water into Lake Tharthar. North of Mosul, its impoundment is under way at the Esiki Mosul dam. In the south, the Iraqis have pumped huge amounts of water from the river, to flood vast areas along their frontlines as part of the defences in the Gulf War. The smaller resultant flow in the Tigris means that less water is going into the extensive marshlands along the lower reaches of both the Tigris and the Euphrates. With less flushing, run-off from these lowlands have become more saline.

Now an accord on water sales is being negotiated, and the Basra scheme would solve the intake problem. The Kuwaitis will soon be inviting firms to bid for a feasibility study on a pipeline leading from Basra — Earthquake feature.

The finding was based on study of ancient Chinese chronicles by Pang, physicist Kevin C. Yau, of the University of Durham, England and Hung-Hsiang Chou, of the East Asian language and cultures department of the University of California, Los Angeles.

The chronicles, called the Bamboo Annals because they were written on bamboo strips, recorded "all important events from the earlier in China down to about 299 B.C." Pang said. "It was probably passed down through the ages and was constantly updated by the (royal) court chroniclers."

One passage in the annals says: "In the spring of the first year of

"enough for necessities." He recently went to Amman and spent JD 60 on shopping, according to Mr. Nawas. "So he is earning enough," Mr. Nawas says.

Ibrahim Mohammad Amairi is less optimistic about the self-supporting programme. He has a small grocery shop in Baqa'a camp which UNRWA provided with JD 600 as seed money in August 1984. "Nobody buys the goods," he complains.

His 17-year-old, Abdullah, helps out with the business. Though he too is negative about the project, he says that they do sell packs of cigarettes and newspapers. "We sell around 100 newspapers a day," he states.

The two work from 6 in the morning until 8 at night, according to them. The father injured his leg when he was struck by a motorcycle, the son relates. He has trouble getting around; he has to use a cane.

In addition to helping his father, Abdullah studies at an industrial school. He lives with his seven brothers and sisters and his parents in three rooms in the back of the shop.

Neither the father nor the son consider the shop sufficient to sustain them. Asked if he would rather have the shop or be on rations, the father responds, "I'd rather take rations."

A stark contrast is the shop of Maher Mohammad Thaher. Located in the market area of the camp, Mr. Thaher's nick-nack shop is booming, despite road construction which has piled up mounds of dirt by the shop entrance. He sells dishes, cooking utensils, toys, perfume, and odds and ends.

With his 16-year-old son, Mohammad, helping out, he serves five customers in the span of the 15 minutes of the interview. In between customers, he tries to answer questions about his business.

"Some days are like this," he says in reference to the number of customers. As his son gift-wraps a set of dishes for one of the buyers, he relates that he makes JD 3 in profit per day. "That's enough," he says. "It's enough for necessities."

Besides his eldest son, the 40-year-old Palestinian has 7 other children. At the time, March 1985, UNRWA gave him the JD 1,100 for seed money. Mr. Thaher could barely see. Now, he wears



(Above) the Baqa'a refugee camp and (right) Hassan Muhsin, 30, another recipient of an UNRWA grant to help him open his own watch repair shop. His shop is in Baqa'a camp, where he has lived since 1968. He learned his trade from a watchmaker in the camp. Khalid Nasser (UNRWA photos)

special contact lenses paid for by UNRWA.

"It makes me feel good when I see that," states Mr. Nawas, after the interview with Mr. Thaher. "I feel like I am accomplishing something." Mr. Nawas estimates that within his area of operations, the Balqa area, there are 5,254 special hardship cases.

Of these, 17 are participating in the self-supporting programme, with only 2 failures since the programme was begun. About the limited number of people participating, he explains: "Many people think that rations are permanent; they don't want to take chances."

Mr. Nawas offers this observation about the psychological benefits of the self-supporting programme. "The beneficiary feels that he is a productive member again, and will be able to support his family instead of being a burden."



Hassan Muhsin, 30, another recipient of an UNRWA grant to help him open his own watch repair shop. His shop is in Baqa'a camp, where he has lived since 1968. He learned his trade from a watchmaker in the camp. Khalid Nasser (UNRWA photos)

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Noting that Jordanians have been closely linked to the Palestinian land and peoples by virtue and national, historical and geographical factors, His Majesty said Jordan throughout the past 40 years adopted a policy of positive cooperation with any sincere effort designed to achieve a just peace in accordance with principles incorporated in the United Nations Charter.

"Terrorism in its various forms, including state terrorism such as the one practised recently in occupied Jerusalem, is the result of this extremism which has succeeded in weakening the forces of moderation and diverting attention from the core of the problem," the King said. "Israel's continued occupation and colonisation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights, during the era of decolonisation, is disgraceful and a cause of condemnation for the international community for being lenient on the issue of peoples' rights to freedom and self-determination."

"A concerted international effort has become extremely essential to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute before next June's 20th anniversary of Israel's occupation of Arab lands," the King added. His Majesty voiced the hope that an international conference

on Middle East peace would convene before this anniversary so that an end could be put to the agony of the Palestinian people.

Israel, which occupies a portion of South Lebanon must cease to play negative roles in Lebanon's internal affairs. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon on the basis of Security Council resolutions, is a pre-requisite for the achievement of national reconciliation and restoring stability in Lebanon," the King said.

On the Iraq-Iran war, the King said that the 6-year-old conflict continues to threaten stability in the whole Gulf region and jeopardises the interests of many nations.

He said the conflict is continuing because the world community is not giving sufficient attention to the tragic consequences of the war, and due to Iran's intransigent stand toward peace attempts.

His Majesty stressed the need for closer Euro-Arab cooperation as the key for stability in both Europe and the neighbouring Middle East.

His Majesty praised France's stand toward efforts to reach a just Middle East peace. He said France has always acted fairly and logically in calling for a balanced solution that guarantees the rights of all peoples in the region to existence and security and recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

King, Queen arrive in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

His Majesty was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honour by President Francois Mitterrand.

His Majesty went on to say that persistence in ignoring justice and continued denial of other peoples' legitimate rights have so far obstructed the achievement of peace and opened the way to extremism in the region.

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## Dyke earns match with Becker in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Italian Claudio Pistolesi and Brod Dyke of Australia scored first-round victories Monday in the \$1.65 million Australian Open tennis championships at Kooyong, but both earned extremely tough second-round encounters.

Pistolesi came from two sets down to defeat Michael Robertson of South Africa 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, 9-7 and next will face 11th-seeded Australian grass court specialist Pat Cash in the second round.

Dyke thrashed Christian Minissi of Argentina 6-2, 6-1, 7-5 and will meet Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany in his second round encounter.

Play in the two-week Grand Slam tournament, which is being played at Kooyong for the final time before switching to the new National Tennis Center in downtown Melbourne, began in warm temperatures Monday under cloudless skies.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden is the defending champion in the men's singles, while Martina Navratilova of the United States is defending the women's crown.

## LA Lakers edge Spurs at buzzer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers, after losing two consecutive games for the first time this season, seemed poised for an easy victory with the San Antonio Spurs providing the competition.

But the Lakers, who have won games by 38, 37 and 36 points since Jan. 1, didn't clinch their 111-109 home victory Sunday night until the final buzzer, when Alvin Robertson missed a three-pointer from 28 feet.

The Spurs, who have a 9-26 record, second-worst in the NBA, tried to get tough against the Lakers, who still have the league's best record of 27-8 despite losses last week at Utah and Golden State.

Elsewhere in the NBA, Seattle defeated Utah 127-111 and Portland beat Milwaukee 103-91.

Guards Joo Sundvold and Robertson scored 20 points each for the Spurs, while David Greenwood and rookie Walter Berry had 17 apiece.

winners in the women's singles action.

Hu rallied to defeat Australian Michelle Jaggar 7-6, 2-6, 6-0, while Moulton ousted West Germany's Claudia Forwick 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Benjamin fought back to down Australian Elizabeth Minter 0-6, 6-4, 6-4.

His next will face the women's no. 4 seed, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

Scott Davis of the United States had to battle for over three hours to defeat veteran Australian Davis Cup member Peter McNamara in another men's first-round match.

Davis, 24, eventually prevailed

7-6, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-4 after

McNamara, ranked 336th in the world, led 3-0 in the final set.

In other first-round matches, South Africa Christo Van Rensburg defeated former Wimbledon junior champion Leonardo Lavalle of Mexico 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Todd Nelson of the United States breezed past Canadian Grant Connell 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; and Javier Fraa of Argentina downed another Canadian, Glenn Michibata, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Carlson's victory sends him against another Swe. de., ninth-seeded Anders Jarryd, in the second round.

Hu Na, the Chinese-born American, and her compatriots Alycia Moulton and Camille Benjamin were opening-round

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Peruvian runner is 'unfashionably' late

MIAMI (AP) — A Peruvian runner who realised he was late for a marathon jumped into the race wearing slacks and leather loafers and ran 35 kilometres to the finish line, arriving before some properly attired runners who started on time did. Felix Alejandro Flores Pacheco, 30, arrived in Miami early Saturday, a full day before the Orange Bowl Marathon — or so he thought. It was not until 9 a.m. that he realised the race had started nearly two hours earlier. He rushed for the starting point, but traffic stopped his taxi four miles (six kilometres) away, forcing the runner to join in at that point or miss the marathon completely. Flores, who carried his leather duffel bag for seven miles before dumping it onto a truck following the runners, finished 22 miles of the 26-mile, 355-yard race. He was 3½ hours behind British postman John Boyes, who won with a time of 2:23:22, but still two hours ahead of the last of 1,500 runners. Sympathetic track officials, convinced he was telling the truth, gave him a medal for finishing the race.

### Table tennis championships to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian table tennis championships will be held in Amman in the coming week and at least 20 youth centres are expected to participate in the matches, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Youth. It said that the final matches will be held on Jan. 29. The announcement also said that the Ministry of Youth will host the 10th Asian table tennis tournament in Amman in 1990 in response to a nomination made by the Arab Table Tennis Federation.

### Sports delegation leaves for Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation leaves Amman today for Tunis to take part in the six day meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, to be held here on Tuesday. Conference will discuss a number of issues, including evaluation of programmes and activities carried out during last year and results of a pan-Arab meeting for sports federation secretaries, which was held in Amman some time ago. They will also discuss a report about the forthcoming Arab school sports tournament and will approve a draft amendment to the Palestine Tournament Cup.

### 'That's not cricket'

SYDNEY (R) — Cricket star Ian Botham's favourite bat has been stolen from the England dressing room at the Sydney ground, sports officials said Monday. The extra-large bat, with which Botham has swatted mighty sixes straight out of cricket grounds around the world, was among several valuable items of equipment taken by thieves during the night. Also missing are two bats and a pair of batting gloves belonging to wicketkeeper Bruce French and the bat being currently used by Jack Richards in the fifth test match against Australia. Another of Botham's bats was also taken.

### Diving centre's board to be formed

AQABA (Petra) — A decision has been taken to form a board of directors for the Royal Diving Centre (RDC), which was inaugurated under the royal patronage in November. The new board, which is presided over by Mr. Bassam Qaqa, Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) chairman, comprises the secretary general of ARA, the director general of the Tourism Authority, director general of the Jordan Youth Organisation, dean of the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Jordan, director of the Maritime Sciences Station, commander of the Royal Coast Guard, director of the RDC, and two members drawn from the private sector.

### No. 1 Davis wins snooker title

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — World number one Steve Davis nosed out fellow-Englishman Jimmy White 13-12 in a thrilling final to win the Merchantile Credit Classic snooker title. After squandering a winning chance by missing an easy red ball in the 24th frame on Sunday, Davis trailed 35-0 in the deciding 25th before striking back to capture the frame 75-35, and with it his fourth successive title this season. The ginger-haired Davis, beaten in the final of the last two World Championships, earned £50,000 (\$75,000) to bring his prize money for the season to almost £200,000 (\$300,000).

## Giants to face Broncos in Super Bowl

what Washington coach Joe Gibbs said was a mild concussion.

The Giants scored on their first possession of the game, when Ram Allegre capped a six-play drive with a 47-yard field goal.

The Giants made it 10-0 on their second possession of the game when Simms hit Lionel Manuel on an eleven-yard pass. The touchdown strike followed a 30-yard pass from Simms to tight end Mark Bavaro to put the ball on the Washington 17-yard line.

The Giants completed the scoring for the game in the second quarter, when running back Joe Morris finished off a six-play drive, with a one-yard plunge into the end zone. The 49-yard drive featured a 25-yard pass to Manuel to get the Giants to the 11-yard line.

New York sacked "skins" quarterback Jay Schroeder four times and intercepted him once. He completed 20 of 50 passes for 195 yards and was intercepted once.

Schroeder, who was battered all afternoon, collapsed on the sideline at the end of the game and was taken to hospital with

### Euro soccer roundup

## Napoli tops league at halfway mark

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona believes peace, love and understanding are the reasons behind Napoli leading the Italian First Division at the halfway stage of the season for the first time in its 60-year history.

Sunday's 3-0 victory over Ascoli helped Napoli to leapfrog over Internazionale, beaten 2-1 by Verona, and open a two-point gap at the top.

Maradona said the team's success was all down to teamwork, the friendship between players and the respect the team had for its coach.

"I'm proud to be captain of this Napoli team. None of us drag our feet and no-one complains when they're left out ... and then we are all very happy to make the people of Naples so happy," he said.

Inter was beaten thanks to two goals from Verona striker Preben Elkjaer, the second coming just two minutes before the final whistle.

### Argentina beats Brazil in Pele Cup

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Argentina defeated Brazil 3-1 in the Pele Cup soccer tournament.

The goal scorers for Argentina were Pedro Gonzalez at 21 minutes and Oscar Mas at 36 and 61 minutes. Jaizinho scored at 83 minutes for Brazil.

The win Sunday moved Argentina into a tie for first place with Brazil, Uruguay and West Germany. All teams have 3 points, but Brazil has played one more game in the tournament, organised for players over 34 years old from countries that have won the World Cup at least twice. Italy has no points and was eliminated.

### TENDER CHANGE

The Civil Aviation Authority/ Airports Investment Committee announces that, due to a modification of related documents, bidders are advised that acceptance of offers for tender No. ODG/5/86 (Advertisement Boxes at Queen Alia International Airport) has been postponed until 28th February 1987. Bidders will be provided with modified copies, in due course.

Capt. Amin I. Husseini  
Director General  
Civil Aviation Authority  
Chief of Investment Committee

### VILLA FOR RENT

Consisting of two floors with inside stairs. Designed according to American designs, with telephone. Location: Jabal Hussein, opposite Ministry of Health.

For information please call Dahdah Gallery, tel. 660887

### "VILLA FOR RENT"

Three storeys and roof. Consists of 7 bedrooms (3 of them master bedrooms), two spacious salons, two large sitting rooms, two dining rooms, 3 kitchens, building area is 900 m<sup>2</sup>. The villa includes a lift, central heating and air-conditioning systems, telephone, a well, a vast garden.

Located in Jabal Amman  
Call: 814486 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

### FOR SALE AT REASONABLE PRICE

Restaurant graded three stars. Five doors on street, two floors 300 m<sup>2</sup> with platform (trass) 25x8 m. Can be used for all commercial business i.e. bank, supermarket, travel agency. Conditioned three phase electricity.

Located in Shmeisani, opposite Grindlays Bank.

For information contact phone 667212 Amman

TODAY

## CINEMA OPERA

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RAINBOW Tel: 625153

NOTHING PERSONAL

Nothing Personal

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema OPERA Tel: 675573

HIGHLANDER

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 677420

HOLD UP

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 622198

VICTORY

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

## Peking expands role for factory managers

PEKING (AP) — The Chinese government Sunday issued new regulations to give factory managers greater independence from Communist Party functionaries in running their enterprises.

A circular released by the party central committee and the state council described the three sets of regulations, which will give managers full responsibility for production and management, a "major reform" of China's enterprise leadership."

Some details on the circular were carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

The regulations appeared to be a formalisation of the manager responsibility system which has been a key part of the senior leader Mr. Deng Xiaoping's efforts to make the Chinese economy more efficient and productive.

Mr. Deng has tried to gradually restrict the power of party officials, often with little or no expertise, to make day-to-day decisions in the operations of state enterprises.

The circular urges all party

organisations in industrial businesses to enthusiastically support this reform and "help the directors better use their decision-making power," Xinhua said.

Directors, or managers, are duty-bound to protect state interests and property, must regularly report their work to party organisations and workers' co-operatives and accept their supervision.

The role of the party, it said, is to supervise the implementation of party and government policies and do political and ideological work. Party officials should also aid directors in exercising decision-making power over operation and production, it said.

China initiated the "manager responsibility system" on a major scale in early 1985. About half the country's state-owned industrial enterprises are practising the new system on a trial basis.

### Channon to visit S.Arabia next week

RIYADH (R) — British Trade and Industry Secretary Paul Channon will start a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday. He will have talks on ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in trade and industry, the agency said. His trip will precede a scheduled state visit to Britain by King Fahd starting on March 24, the Saudi monarch's first there since he came to the throne in 1982. Britain is providing the Saudis with 132 warplanes in a \$7.2 billion deal that is Britain's biggest arms export order.

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	One sterling	1,4812/22	U.S. dollars
	One U.S. dollar	1,3685/90	Canadian dollars
	1,9070/80	1,9070/80	West German marks
	2,1520/30	2,1520/30	Dutch guilders
	1,5915/30	1,5915/30	Swiss francs
	39,50/60	39,50/60	Belgian francs
	6,3250/3300	6,3250/3300	French francs
	1,348/1349	1,348/1349	Italian lire
	157,45/55	157,45/55	Japanese yen
	6,7275/7325	6,7275/7325	Swedish crowns
	6,3150/3200	6,3150/3200	Norwegian crowns
	7,2400/50	7,2400/50	Danish crowns
	One ounce of gold	409,50/410,00	U.S. dollars

### LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices moved back to just below the record high of 1,760.8 reached in early trading Monday. By 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up seven points to 1,759.3, having moved down to a low of 1,750.5 earlier Monday on light profit-taking.

Higher oil prices, the recent run of record breaking performances on Wall Street and the steady pound after the weekend EMS realignment helped shares at the outset.

Dealers said the profit-taking Monday morning was widely anticipated and seen as a consolidation of the gains in the last week or so. The opening dip on Wall Street Monday gave way to fresh record highs and helped prices here in late trading.

Argyll group shares were 12p higher at 347. Dealers said there were rumours that Argyll might bid for Guinness or sue the company heavily for its actions in the distillers takeover struggle. One dealer said "we're not really taking either rumour seriously but they do appear to be moving the shares."

Guinness shares stood 12p down at 298 after a low of 292 following news of the reorganisation at the company. Chairman and Chief Executive Ernest Saunders decided to step down while the government investigation into the company continues.

### Horoscope not received

#### THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

COTTON	BENIE	PAINE
SIRIUS	ABOVE	SHIRLEY
PROTEIN	ROBERT	STAR
BEET	INDIA	STYLIS
CHAMPS	FOOD	STYLIS
CRIMED	COATLERS	
GRILLED	TOILET	SACK
ALBINO	SCARF	SOM
ARMED	SPRING	SOON
ARMED	YETRA	SPRING
ARMED	MEERS	SPRING
ARMED	WORLD	SPRING

## Price of gold rises

LONDON (R) — The price of gold rose to its highest in 10 weeks Monday helped up by a weak dollar, higher oil prices and concern over political instability in South Africa, dealers said.

The dollar was fixed to Frankfurt at midday at 1,9080 West German marks and drifted lower as the markets continued to be worried about the performance of the U.S. economy.

Mondays' realignment of European currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS), which currency dealers were still trying to assess, did little to help the dollar and West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, intervened in the market Monday morning to stop it falling below 1,90 marks.

Platinum, of which South Africa is also a key supplier, rose along with gold. The jump in precious metals prices was a boost to the sanctions-hit South African economy and Johannesburg mining shares soared.

The latest investor interest in precious metals, which began on the futures market in New York last Friday, was fuelled by the confusion in the market after Mondays' EMS realignment and by cold weather in Europe, which sent crude oil prices up by 50 U.S. cents to around \$18.80 a barrel.

The gold price was fixed in London at \$410.90 an ounce, the highest since May 1986 when there were hopes of a breakthrough in South Africa's political impasse.

The rand hit a record low of 35.45 cents in August 1985 when President P.W. Botha quashed hopes of far-reaching reforms to apartheid racial segregation laws. The new OPEC prices will be aligned on a "benchmark" of \$18 a barrel with variations on either side of that to take account of the different yield in petrol and other refined products of the various crude oils.

He expected the current account balance to improve, inflation to remain low, full employment to be maintained and the growth rate in gross domestic product to be around the 1986 level of three per cent.

Mr. Mavrellis said the one exception might be an increase in a special defence levy, forecast several months ago, from the current rate of one per cent of all Greek Cypriots' incomes.

The year is likely to be dominated by a lively campaign for a February 1988 election in which President Spyros Kyprianou will seek a third five-year term in office.

Mr. Mavrellis said the main feature of the Cypriot economy in 1986 had been a "significant improvement in internal and external stability."

He cited as major achievements a fall in the island's current account deficit from \$197 million in 1985 to \$29.5 million last year and a fall in inflation from five to 1.2 per cent in the same period.

Foreign exchange reserves stood at \$875 million at the end of the year — enough to cover 8½ months' worth of imports. Mr. Mavrellis said.

Dealers said operators interpreted its break through \$500, seen as a psychological barrier, as a signal to buy.

Gold and silver both hit their lowest recent levels on Nov. 24, with gold at \$380.40 and platinum at \$468.50.

The latest rally had begun before final clashes in South Africa in which eight black mineworkers died. Investors favour precious metals whenever there is uncertainty in the currency markets or they scent a whiff of inflation of the kind that higher oil prices may bring.

Platinum futures soared on Friday in New York, with the January contract gaining \$26 to close at \$202.90.

"It's bounded around between \$460 and \$500 for eight weeks, and now that trading range has resolved on the upside," said Mr. Steve Chronowitz, director of commodity research in New York with Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Company.

He said political tension in South Africa provided underlying support, but the rally was triggered by speculators who follow technical trading factors.

The higher metals prices sent South Africa's rand nearly half a U.S. cent up in value Monday to 47.30 U.S. cents at midday, its highest since May 1986 when there were hopes of a breakthrough in South Africa's political impasse.

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The new OPEC prices will be aligned on a "benchmark" of \$18 a barrel with variations on either side of that to take account of the different yield in petrol and other refined products of the various crude oils.

Market analysts say it remains to be seen whether new group production cuts can balance supply with demand to underpin these prices, which will be some 20 per cent higher than the average obtained in recent months.

But if the tree market, a usual "barometer" of the price and supply/demand outlook, is a reliable guide, the omens for OPEC at least look encouraging.

Free market values of many grades of OPEC crude have edged

The budgets envisage revenue of \$768 million and expenditure of \$1027 million, with the deficit financed mostly from local borrowing.

Mr. Mavrellis said an autonomous exports promotion organisation would be in operation this year and a bill would be presented to establish the island's first stock exchange. An economic action plan for 1987-1991 was nearing completion.

He cited as major achievements a fall in the island's current account deficit from \$197 million in 1985 to \$29.5 million last year and a fall in inflation from five to 1.2 per cent in the same period.

The new plan's aim would be to change economic structures in several sectors, to raise technical sophistication in production and to adjust the economy to meet the challenge of a proposed customs union with the European Community.

## EC revalues four currencies

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — European finance chiefs ended 12 hours of talks Monday with an accord to revalue four currencies in a realignment of the European Monetary System (EMS).

The finance ministers and central bank governors revalued the West German mark and Dutch guilder by three per cent each and the Belgian and Luxembourg francs by two per cent each effective immediately.

The values of the other four EMS currencies — the French franc, the Italian lira, the Danish krone and the Irish pound — were left unchanged.

The meeting was triggered by recent turmoil in the money markets, highlighted by last week's collapse of the French franc and the failure of the Bonn and Paris governments to agree on which of them should act to correct the problem.

France opposed a devaluation

of the franc for fear it will fuel inflation and be seen as a sign of economic weakness at a time when the government is tested by public service strikes.

French Premier Jacques Chirac had insisted the surging West German mark was the main cause of the turmoil last week in currency markets. Therefore, he said, there was no need for France to act.

Having resisted calls for a devaluation of his currency, French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur said he was pleased with the outcome of the Monday's talks.

The EMS links the currencies of eight of the 12 European Community (EC) nations. It sets fixed limits on how much each currency can move up or down in relation to the seven others.

The EC currencies not part of the EMS exchange rate

mechanism are those of Britain, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

As the United States is not in the EMS, the agreed realignment does not directly affect the value of the dollar.

But by raising the values of the German mark, Dutch guilder and Belgian and Luxembourg francs, the French currency was de facto devalued against these currencies.

Several sources, who asked not to be named, said that during the talks Denmark dropped its demand for a one per cent revaluation of its krone, a suggestion that was opposed by France.

The strength of the West German mark was partly caused by the continued fall of the dollar as investors worry about the large U.S. budget and trade deficits. Investors often shift their money into marks when the dollar is falling.

## target

government had previously reported, according to new Energy Department statistics published at the weekend.

Since last January, when world oil prices started to fall, U.S. output has dropped by 8.5 per cent, or an average of 800,000 barrels a day. Until now, the government has been estimating the decline at around 200,000 barrels a day.

Because the production drop has forced the U.S. to raise its oil imports, the latest data have significant implications for the nation's trade deficit — already at a record level — and on calculations about how vulnerable the country is to an interruption of foreign crude supplies.

"This fall of 800,000 barrels a day is a much steeper rate of decline than most people had thought would occur," said Mr. Edward Murphy, director of statistics for the American Petroleum Institute, an industry trade group.

The figures were not a complete surprise, as they largely confirm those reported by the trade association for several months, but they appear likely to enhance the credibility of industry warnings that import dependence will reach high levels by the early 1990s if oil prices remain depressed.

Indonesian oil officials also said Indonesia was seeking an early commitment on new ODA to finance public projects such as bridges, dams and roads, was \$80 billion yen (\$500 million) and 26 per cent of it would be made available in rupiah, Japanese officials said.

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Indonesia is negotiating for a new loan at concessional terms from the Japanese Export-Import Bank to finance the rupiah costs of World Bank projects, a Japanese official said.

## Oil prices move closer to OPEC

## Enrile predicts renewed bloody war with rebels

**MANILA (R)** — Ousted Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile Monday predicted a renewed bloody war with Communist rebels and warned President Corazon Aquino she would lose her right to rule the Philippines if voters reject her new constitution.

Mr. Enrile, the country's defence minister for almost 20 years, told reporters at a weekly interview forum that if the constitution is rejected in the Feb. 2 plebiscite, as he thinks it will, Mrs. Aquino will have lost her right to govern.

"Mrs. Aquino would have no moral authority over Filipinos to be their president. That would be the most tragic situation," said Mr. Enrile, who is leading the fight against the constitution.

"You would have somebody as president ... who would be the subject of disobedience by the people," said the man sacked by Mrs. Aquino last November amid reports that his followers plotted a coup.

But asked if she would have the authority to govern should the constitution be approved, Mr.

Enrile conceded that she would. He added that the vote had turned into a one-sided presidential election.

"Mrs. Aquino is running for the presidency without an opponent," Mr. Enrile said, quoting a local newspaper columnist.

He said he was against the ceasefire now in effect between rebels and the government because it would only bring a lull in the fighting that is not peace as we understand it."

He added: "Sooner or later the full will be broken and when that break happens then the fighting will be more intense, will be more bloody and we will have more casualties on both sides."

Mr. Enrile said that by the time ceasefire breaks, the rebel New People's Army will have improved its supplies and retrained its

troops while the Philippine army would be in a state of "inertia" and need to be reconditioned.

He spoke on the weekly "Kapitan Sa Manila" interview forum normally broadcast by government-owned television station channel 4.

But the station has refused to air the interview, amid charges of censorship and a private station will instead carry the programme.

Mr. Enrile said the decision not to carry the interview was similar to the censorship during the rule of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos, whom Mr. Enrile helped overthrow in last February's military revolt.

Meanwhile, leaders of the rebels said they would like to see an extension of the 60-day ceasefire which expires on Feb. 8.

At their weekly news briefing, Communist peace negotiators accused the military of stepping up its operations against the rebels.

"There are reports of arrests and apprehensions of NDF (National Democratic Front) members and sympathisers," said negotiator Carolina Malay.

## China sacks 2 academics over protests

**PEKING (R)** — China said Monday it had sacked top scientist Fang Lizhi and another senior academic whom it accused of causing nationwide student demonstrations calling for more democracy and freedom.

The official New China News Agency said Guan Weyian and Fang had been removed from the posts of president and vice-president respectively of the Science and Technology University in the central city of Hefei where the month-long unrest began.

It said Fang, 51, a physicist who has lectured abroad and received international awards, would be assigned as a research fellow at the Peking Observatory.

The agency made no mention of widespread reports that Fang, known to be popular among students, had been expelled from the Communist Party. But it accused him of "attempting to shake off the party's leadership."

It said: "His ideas have resulted in vicious consequences in the university and were also illustrated in the recent student unrest there."

The month-long campaign for democracy, in which tens of thousands of students defied authorities to stage demonstrations in at least 12 cities.

Students say Fang visited Shanghai shortly before tens of thousands of people took to the streets there at the end of last month.

The agency quoted party Central Committee member Zhou Guangzhao as telling a meeting at the University in Hefei: "In a fairly long period of time Fang Lizhi made many erroneous statements of bourgeois liberalisation."

Mr. Zhou added: "The university leading body must be reorganised to ensure the leadership of the party and state and the implementation of the education policy of the party and state."

Western diplomats said earlier Monday that it appeared the party leadership, headed by Deng Xiaoping had decided to make Fang a scapegoat to placate hard-line conservatives outraged by the students' demands.

Other Nigerian officials suggested that the strong U.S. influence on the deeply troubled Nigerian economy, which is almost entirely dependent on oil for its foreign exchange, also had a moderating influence on relations.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said relations with Nigeria were improving and that Washington strongly approved of its efforts at economic recovery.

## Shultz gets hostile press reception in Lagos

**LAGOS (R)** — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Lagos Monday for a 10-hour visit and ran into a hostile press reception.

But officials said American support for Nigeria's economic adjustment programme augured well for his talks with Nigerian President Gen. Ibrahim Babangida.

The talks are also expected to touch on the escalating war in neighbouring Chad and South Africa.

The Nigerian press was particularly severe Monday about U.S. policy in South Africa.

"Your government's policy of 'constructive engagement' with

## Rape-murder of 2 women renews riots in Karachi

**KARACHI (R)** — The gruesome gang-rape and murder of two young women set off fresh riots in Karachi and police opened fire after tear gas failed to disperse rioters, witnesses said Monday.

Witnesses said at least 15,000 people took to the streets at midnight in five volatile districts of Pakistan's most populous city, set ablaze vehicles and lit bonfires on roads to block fire-fighting equipment.

Doctors at a government hospital said they treated 14 people, eight of whom had been seriously injured.

Police said they resorted to firing their rifles when thousands of rioters rained down stones on police. The crowds had taken to the streets as news of the rape-murders spread through troubled districts.

Police said they arrested over 30 people on charges of arson and rioting.

Official sources said the government had given instructions to police to shoot-at-sight anyone involved in causing harm or injury to peaceful citizens.

Para-military force Eagle squads were patrolling the riot-hit areas Monday, witness said.

Asma Jabeen, 24, a schoolteacher, Salma Jabeen, 20, a post-graduate student, and their father, Mohammad Masoom, were kidnapped on Thursday night as they were returning from a family wedding, police said.

The abductors killed Masoom and dumped his body near his

home in north Karachi the next day. The half-naked bodies of the young women were found near a graveyard 40 kilometres east of Karachi Sunday, police said.

Doctors said after five-hour post mortems that the women had been tortured with cigarettes and that their bodies bore many knife wounds and multiple bullet wounds. They had apparently been gang-raped, the doctors said.

The crowds shouted: "Down with Zia, down with Junejo and down with Ghous," referring to President Mohammad Zia-Ul Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Sind province Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah.

Residents of Karachi accused the government of failing to provide adequate public security following ethnic riots late last year in which at least 186 people were killed.

Those disturbances flared when Pashtuns from the country's north-west and Afghanistan attacked Mohajirs, who immigrated from other parts of former British India at independence in 1947.

"The terrorists are attempting to undermine the police information system in the state," he said.

Police said extremists also shot dead a police constable Monday near the industrial city of Jullundur.

The deaths brought the toll so far this year to 27 in the state where last year at least 697 people were killed in political violence, according to unofficial figures.

Mr. Ghous said he formed a committee to investigate the incident.

## Sikh gunmen kill 4 women in Punjab

**CHANDIGARH, India (R)** — Sikh extremists in northern Punjab state Monday killed four women in what police called a second attempt to undermine their information network by unleashing violence on the families of suspected informants.

Gunned shot dead the wife, two daughters and a woman tenant of Shamsher Singh near Tam Tarau town in Amritsar district.

Police told Reuters the gunmen suspected Singh of giving police information on suspected extremists who are fighting for a separate Sikh state in Punjab.

Extremists killed a government party worker they believed to be an informer along with six of his family members near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar early last Thursday.

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## World body reports widespread drug trafficking

By George John  
The Associated Press

**VIENNA, Austria** — Drug abuse is still common in most parts of the world, and some traffickers are also involved in terrorism and gun-running, according to an annual U.N. report released Monday.

The 1986 report by the International Narcotics Control Board said that illicit drug production is more widespread than ever, and the level of abuse in some countries threatens national security. The countries were not named.

"The abuse of drugs ... now affects virtually all countries and menaces all segments of society, including young persons and even children," the report noted.

"Illicit production and manufacture ... takes place in a growing number of countries.

"These illicit activities are financed and master-minded by criminal organisations with international links and with accomplices in financial circles," the report said, without giving details.

"In certain regions, drug trafficking is closely inter-connected with ... trafficking in weapons ... subversion and international terrorism.

"The whole process undermines the economic and social order, spreads violence and corruption and imperils the very

political stability and security of some countries," the report said, again avoiding specifics.

Among instances of regional progress in the worldwide fight against illicit drug trade and consumption, it mentioned stabilising heroin use in some Asian countries.

In Western Europe, heroin remains widely available and the use of cocaine appears to be spreading, but the number of drug-related deaths seems to be stabilising and even decreasing in some countries, it said.

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## Deaths, chaos follow Europe's big freeze

**MOSCOW (R)** — Soviet railway workers, soldiers and volunteers Monday struggled to unravel rail chaos caused by the coldest January since 1950, which has caused 48 deaths and put fresh strains on the economy.

A killer cold snap is sweeping across Europe and record low temperatures have been reported, with Eastern Siberia the coldest recorded place at minus 60 degrees Centigrade (minus 76 degrees Fahrenheit).

In Sweden, the army was called out to take food and medicine to thousands of homes cut off by snow and ice and Sunday services were cancelled because the church heating equipment could not cope with the cold.

Swedish electricity companies appealed to people to reduce their consumption Monday because the country's electricity network could collapse if usage was not cut down.

Cold weather swept as far south as Italy, and Radio Rome reported Sunday night that temperatures had dropped below freezing in northern parts of the country.

The main Moscow television news programme Vremya (time) said Sunday night that thousands of wagons, mostly loaded with coal, were standing in sidings in chaos caused by severe frosts across the country.

It said the situation was improving but the sudden drop in temperature had revealed a lack of readiness in a population which should know better about the effects of cold.

A particular problem had built up along the Far-Eastern coast, where ships were lined up waiting to take export goods from the railways, the television added, criticising the Ministry of Foreign Trade for slowness in easing the crisis.

Official newspapers reported seven deaths related to freezing temperatures Sunday, including a female climber who slipped down an icy rock face at Ben More in central Scotland.

A man and two teenage boys were found dead in Chester, central England, after apparently being overcome by fumes from a gas heater while they slept.

Three pensioners were found dead from cold in their homes in the Thames Valley, southern England.

Police tried to slow down traffic after a series of accidents Sunday on an ice-bound section of the M25 motorway circling the British capital.

As it prepared for next year's first-ever peaceful transition of power, and the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

In a first official response to Mr. Chun's offer, a presidential spokesman Monday told reporters that, without a summit meeting, setting up new channels for inter-Korean talks would have no significance.

Mr. Chun Monday accused Pyongyang of building a huge dam just north of the border "out of an idle dream of communising the whole peninsula by force."

Charging the North with planning to use the dam to flood the South's most populous and vital region, Mr. Chun said: "North Korea must, first of all, cease the construction of the Kumgangsan Dam and agree to discuss the joint development of common rivers," he said.

The two sides are still poles apart on a new national charter.

The main opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) wants a direct poll to replace the current Electoral College system for choosing a president.

Both the government party and the opposition should exert their best efforts to forge a consensus to avoid creating an indefinitely continuing impasse which would give me no other choice as the chief executive but to make the grave decision to ensure the smooth implementation of the political timetable," he said.

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The 35-page report examined developments according to region. In the Mideast and parts of Asia "in recent years the easy availability of locally manufactured heroin has led to widespread and escalating abuse of this drug," it said.

On a country basis, heroin seizures increased tenfold since 1984 in Afghanistan, drug abuse "remains serious" in Burma, and Thailand "the abuse of opiates, cannabis and psychotropic substances remains high."

The report noted the following developments in some other countries and regions:

"In the Soviet Union, authorities are increasingly concerned by the still limited but apparently growing abuse of some narcotic drugs," notably marijuana, opium derivatives and medication.

"In the United States, cannabis continues to be the most widely abused ... although surveys show that its use by young persons has declined. Heroin use is believed to have stabilised. ... Today, the drug causing the greatest concern is cocaine," with 4 million to 5 million estimated users.

"In Canada, 'cocaine is plentiful and is widely abused,' and 'there are also ample quantities of heroin of high purity on the illicit market.'

"In Western Europe, 'in several countries heroin abuse remains at high level while in others, such abuse appears to be subsiding, and in some cases decreasing. The abuse of cocaine is now widespread and (apparently) increasing in some countries' particularly in France, West Germany and Britain.

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